

REMARKS

In the Claims

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-4, 10, and 19-39, without prejudice.

Applicant has introduced new claims 52-76, which are supported by cancelled claims 1-4, 10, and 19-39, and which depend upon at least one of the allowable base claims 5, 9, 11, 40, 41 and 45.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 5-9, 11-18, 40-42, 45 and 46 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant rewrote these claims, as suggested by the Examiner, and submitted them in the Amendment and Response dated August 10, 2007. Accordingly, base claims 5, 9, 11, 40, 41 and 45, and all claims dependent thereon, are now allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 10, 21-23, 26-29, 36-39 and 47-51 stand rejected as anticipated by Harding (US 419,942).

Applicant respectfully maintains that all of these claims are patentable over the cited art. However, in the interest of expediency, Applicant has cancelled base claim 1, and has rewritten dependent claims 2, 10, 21-23, 26-29, 36-39 and 47-51 to depend from one or more of the allowable base claims 5, 9, 11, 40, 41 and 45. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this ground for rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 24, 25 and 30-35 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Harding; claims 3 and 4 stand rejected as unpatentable over Harding in view of Keldmann et al. (WO 98/53869); claims 19 and 20 stand rejected as unpatentable over

Harding in view of Butler et al. (US 5,937,852).

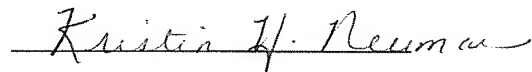
Applicant respectfully maintains that these claims are patentable over the cited art. However, in the interest of expediency, Applicant has cancelled based claim 1 and rewritten dependent claims 3, 4, 19, 20, 24, 25 and 30-35 to depend from one or more of the allowable base claims 5, 9, 11, 40, 41 and 45. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this ground for rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and requests early favorable action. The Examiner is welcome to contact Applicant's Attorney at the number below with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

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